

In the claims: Amend the claims as shown below.

1.(previously presented) A rope comprising: weakened polymeric fibers throughout the length of the rope, wherein the rope has a diameter between 5/16 inch and 1.0 inch and breaks between 600 and 2200 pounds of pulling tension being at least 25 % less than that of the same rope diameter of un-weakened polymeric fibers.

2.(original) The rope according to claim 1, wherein the rope comprises fibers comprising 30-90 wt % of a thermoplastic polymer and a 20-70 wt % filler distributed uniformly in said polymer, said filler having an average particle size under 100 microns.

3.(original) The rope according to claim 1, wherein the rope breaks between 600 and 1250 pounds of pulling tension.

4.(original) The rope according to claim 2, wherein the fibers are prepared with sufficient filler to decrease the tensile strength of the thermoplastic polymer by at least about 25% compared with a thermoplastic polymer without said filler.

5.(currently amended) The rope according to claim 2, wherein said filler is at least one selected from the group consisting of starch, sand, barium sulfate, barite, bathes, iron oxide and sodium chloride.

6.(previously presented) The rope according to claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polypropylene, polyethylene, polyolefin, and copolymers thereof.

7.(cancelled)

8.(original) The rope according to claim 1, wherein said weak fibers are formed of a blend of at least two thermoplastic polymers having limited compatibility.

9.(original) The rope according to claim 8, wherein the at least two thermoplastic polymers have melt flow index values which differ by a value of at least 5g/10 mm.

10.(original) The rope according to claim 9, wherein the blend consists of 90-60 wt % polypropylene and 10-40 wt % polyethylene wherein the wt % is based on the total weight of the weak fiber.

11.(original) The rope according to claim 9, wherein the at least two thermoplastic polymers have melt flow index values which differ by 20-50g/ 10 min.

12.(original) The rope according to claim 8, wherein the at least two thermoplastic polymers are polyethylene having a molecular weight distribution >4 in a concentration of 85-95 wt % and amorphous polypropylene in a concentration of 5-15 wt %, wherein the wt % values are based on the total weight of the weak fibers.

13.(cancelled previously)

14.(cancelled previously)

15.(cancelled previously)

16.(cancelled previously)

17.(cancelled previously)

18.(currently amended) A sea worthy rope comprising:

braided fibers of thermo plastic material throughout the length of said rope; and
a quantity of inorganic material dispersed evenly throughout the thermo plastic material,
wherein the tensile strength of the braided fibers is decreased by ~~25—75%~~ more than about
50%.

19.(currently amended) The rope of claim 18, wherein said thermo plastic material is ~~selected~~
~~from the group consisting of~~ a mix of polypropylene ~~[[,]]~~ and polyethylene where the
polypropylene includes a portion of amorphous polypropylene ~~, and a blend of polypropylene~~
~~and polyethylene.~~

20.(currently amended) The rope of claim 19, wherein the polypropylene and polyethylene
polymers have a melt flow rate values which differ by a value of at least 20 g/ 10 min. ~~the range~~
~~of 2g/10 min—50g/10 min.~~

21.(currently amended) The rope of claim 19, wherein the blend is ~~70-85%~~ about 75 wt%
polypropylene and ~~30-15%~~ about 25 wt% polyethylene.

22.(currently amended) The rope of claim 19, ~~also including 5-15%~~ wherein the amorphous
polypropylene portion constitutes about 10 wt% of the blend.

23.(currently amended) The rope of claim 19, wherein said polypropylene has a melt flow rate of less than 15g/ 10 min and said polyethylene has a melt flow rate of greater than 50g/ 10 min and the molecular weight distribution (MWD) of said polypropylene and said polyethylene is greater than 4.

24.(cancelled - restricted out) ~~A method of making weakened thermo plastic rope when compared to rope of equivalent size and thermo plastic materials, comprising the steps of:~~

- ~~obtaining a quantity of thermoplastic resin;~~
- ~~obtaining a quantity of inorganic particles to be dispersed uniformly throughout said resin during a drawing step;~~
- ~~heating and drawing monofilament of said thermo plastic and inorganic particles at a draw ratio of 6.3:1; and thereafter~~
- ~~braiding a rope from said monofilament.~~

25.(new) The rope of claim 18, wherein said braided fibers having said inorganic material dispersed throughout have been drawn at a ratio of greater than 6.3:1, and wherein said decrease in tensile strength of said braided fibers is in relation to rope of equivalent size and thermo plastic materials without said inorganic material dispersion.

26.(new) A braided seaworthy rope, comprising:

- braided fibers of thermoplastic material monofilament throughout the length of said rope;
- and
- a quantity of inorganic particles dispersed evenly throughout said thermoplastic monofilament;

wherein said thermoplastic material a mix of polypropylene (PP) having a MFR<15g/10 min. and polyethylene (PE) having a MFR>50g/ 10 min;

wherein said rope has a uniform diameter throughout its length;

wherein the tensile breaking strength of said rope is at least 25% less than an equal rope without said inorganic particle dispersion; and

wherein said rope elongation is less than 20%.

27.(new) A rope of uniform diameter throughout its length, comprising:

a plurality of thermoplastic polymeric fibers throughout said rope length, said fibers containing a uniform dispersion of inorganic particulate in said polymer, said inorganic particulate dispersion polymeric fibers having been melt drawn as monofilament;

wherein said thermoplastic is a mix of about 15 wt% polyethylene, about 70 wt% non-amorphous polypropylene, and about 15 wt% amorphous polypropylene; and

wherein the molecular weight distribution (MWD) of said polypropylene and said polyethylene is greater than 3.